

REMARKS

A.) The Section 102 Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 12-21, 31-35 and 46-52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Aronin, U.S. Patent No. 6,454,650 ("Aronin"). Applicant respectfully disagrees and traverses these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Applicant notes that the Final Office Action appears to erroneously include claim 36 in this rejection. Applicant believes this is in error and has prepared its response accordingly.

Each of the claims of the present invention includes the feature of sending a personalized notification, using a user's preferred method of notification, to a user concerning the user's participation in an event (e.g., exam, sporting event, etc.).

In contrast, as admitted by the Examiner on pages 3-6 of the Final Office Action, Aronin does not disclose the use of a user's preferred method of notification.

In sum, because Aronin does not disclose each feature of claims 1, 2, 12-21, 31-35 and 46-52, Aronin cannot anticipate claims 1, 2, 12-21, 31-35 and 46-52 of the present invention.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending rejections and allowance of claims 1, 2, 12-21, 31-35 and 46-52.

B.) The Section 103 Rejections

(i) Claims 3, 22 and 37

Claims 3, 22 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on a combination of Aronin and U.S. Patent No. 6,591,245 to Klug ("Klug"). Applicant disagrees and traverses these rejections for at least the following reason.

Each of the claims of the present invention includes sending a personalized notification, using a user's preferred method of notification, to a user concerning the user's participation in an event.

In contrast, neither Aronin nor Klug, separately or in combination, suggests such personalized and preferred notifications. Instead, as indicated above, Aronin is completely silent as to the use of preferred notification methods. As for Klug, its notification methods are unrelated to an event a user is participating in (as previously stated in Applicant's response filed on October 29, 2004).

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3, 22 and 37 would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the present application was filed based on the disclosures of Aronin and Klug at least because such a combination does not suggest a personalized and preferred notification method concerning an event a user is participating in.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections and allowance of claims 3, 22, and 37.

(ii) Claims 4, 5, 23, 24 and 36-39

Claims 4, 5, 23, 24 and 36-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Aronin in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,473,707 to Grey ("Grey").

Applicant respectfully disagrees and traverses these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Initially, Applicant notes that Grey does not overcome the deficiencies in Aronin cited above. For this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Aronin and Grey do not render obvious claims 4, 5, 23, 24 and 36-39.

In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that there is no motivation whatsoever to combine Aronin with Grey, and, therefore, such a combination would not render obvious the claims of the present invention in any event.

Aronin is directed at a remote lottery system while Grey is directed at methods for writing programs to test instruments. There is no indication or suggestion within Aronin that it can be used to test instruments nor is there any indication or suggestion in Grey that it can be used in a remote lottery system.

Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter of claims 4, 5, 23, 24 and 36-39 would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the present application was filed upon reading the disclosures of Aronin and Grey.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending rejections and allowance of claims 4, 5, 23, 24 and 36-39.

(iii) Claims 6-11, 25-30 and 40-45

Claims 6-11, 25-30 and 40-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Aronin in view of Klug.

As stated before, each of the claims of the present invention depends on an independent claim which includes the feature of sending a personalized notification, using a user's preferred method of notification, to a user concerning the user's participation in an event.

In contrast, as stated above, neither Aronin nor Klug, separately or in combination, suggests such personalized and preferred notifications.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending rejections and allowance of claims 6,-11, 25-30 and 40-45.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a reply to the outstanding Office Action and submit the required \$120.00 extension fee herewith.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John E. Curtin at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

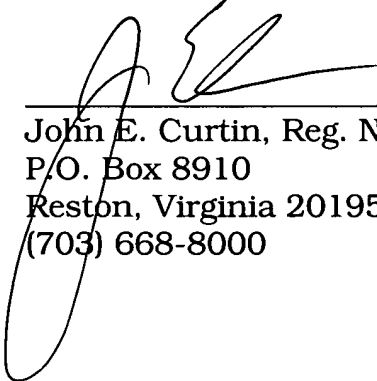
In the event this Response does not place the present application in condition for allowance, applicant requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (703) 668-8000 to schedule a personal interview.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By



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